

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An optical linkage for securing a first part and a second part, the first part including a first threaded portion, and the second part including a second threaded portion that is screwable to the first threaded portion, wherein the first part and the second part may be comprised of a lens member or a body housing imaging elements, the optical linkage device comprising:

a plurality of positioning recesses that are formed ~~around~~ at a circumference of the first part such that a plurality of said recesses are located in a one-fourth portion of the circumference; ~~and~~

at least one positioning protrusion that is formed in the second part, the positioning protrusion being selectively engageable with the recess members when threading the first part onto the second part; and

further comprising a means for securing the first part and the second part in a permanent fixed relationship.

2. (Previously Amended) An optical linkage device according to Claim 1, wherein the first threaded portion is an external thread, and the second part is further comprised of two or more positioning protrusions.

3. (Previously Amended) An optical linkage device according to Claim 2, wherein the second threaded portion is an internal thread.

4. (Previously Amended) An optical linkage device according to Claim 1, wherein the first part is a lens barrel.

5. (Previously Amended) An optical linkage device according to Claim 4, wherein the second part is a holder for holding the lens barrel, and further wherein an image pickup device is mounted to the holder.

6. (Previously Amended) An optical linkage device according to Claim 5, wherein, by selecting a location of engagement for the recess and the protrusion, a desired focal location between the image pickup device and the lens is achieved.

7. (Previously Amended) An optical linkage device according to Claim 5, wherein an image-forming-device focus adjustment pitch is determined at least in part by an engagement pitch between the recess and the protrusion elements.

8. (Currently Amended) An optical linkage structure for securing a first part and a second part, the first part including a first threaded portion and the second part including a second threaded portion screwable to the first threaded portion, wherein the first part and the second part may be comprised of a lens member or a body housing imaging elements, the optical linkage structure comprising:

at least one positioning recess that is formed in the first part; and

a plurality of positioning protrusions that are formed ~~around~~ at a circumference of the second part such that a plurality of said protrusions are located in one-fourth portion of the circumference, the positioning protrusions being selectively engageable with the recess; and

further comprising a means for securing the first part and the second part in a permanent fixed relationship.

9. (Previously Amended) An optical linkage structure according to Claim 8, wherein the first threaded portion is an external thread.

10. (Previously Amended) An optical linkage structure according to Claim 9, wherein the threaded portion of the second part is an internal thread.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of securing a lens member to an imaging body comprising the steps of:

securing a threaded portion of a lens member to a corresponding threaded portion of an imaging body; ~~and~~

rotating the lens member with respect to the imaging body such that one or more recess portions intermittently engage one or more positioning protrusions and wherein a one quarter revolution of the lens member with respect to the imaging body results in a plurality of said intermittent engagements between the one or more recess portions and one or more positioning protrusions; and

further comprising securing the first part and the second part in a permanent fixed relationship.

12. (Previously Added) The method of claim 11 comprising a step of rotating the lens member with respect to the imaging body such that a plurality of recess portions arranged around a circumference of the lens member are intermittently engaged by at least one positioning protrusion formed in the imaging body.

13. (Previously Added) The method of claim 11 comprising a step of rotating the lens member with respect to the imaging body such that a plurality of recess portions arranged around a circumference of the imaging body are intermittently engaged by at least one positioning protrusion formed in the lens member.

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